

mendable. While they have no regular sewing circle, they have been faithful in supporting the general work, and their free will offering in the two services was almost equal to the Zion Hill collection.

I shall echo the cry of last week for contributions to our page from the S. S. C. E. workers, and if at present you are not doing anything in a financial way worth reporting, tell us what helped you most in your last devotional meeting. Dear Sister Hedrick, we have special room for a frequent and long letter from you. There are many friends all along this route that are longing to hear from you, and to once again read your encouraging words, since your voice is silent to them, heard only in that Virginia home and Dayton church. I have assured our workers again and again that you were still interested in the S. S. C. E., and now we all wait for you to confirm it by speaking for yourself.

"Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise him, O ye servants of the Lord."

VIANNA DETWILER.

Glenford, O.

## Our Young People

### THAT GOOD PART

Luke 10: 38-42; John 6: 26-35

Topic July 30.

Wisdom is shown in making right choices, that is in counting people and things at their true value. The fool sets false value on things. He squanders what is of most worth and seeks after trifles. He burns his house to spite the moon. He deserts his God to serve the devil. He loses sight of the future to grasp the present pleasures. And how many fools there are! Watch a crowd of people. Ask how many of them are moving according to a high, fixed life-purpose and how many are being led by the attractions of the moment. How many are really choosing? We are free moral agents and yet we allow ourselves to drift with the crowd, to think as companions think and to do as they do. Good companions have good influence but alas most Christian young people forget the injunction to "come out and be separate" and mingle freely with the worldly and thus put themselves in the way of temptation. Thus worldliness creeps into the church and sinners say, "I will not join the church for I am as good as its members." In our lesson this week we are taught that it pays to give up some things in order that we may have others. It pays to give up money if thereby we may gain character. It pays to give up foolish pleasure seeking if thereby we may become more spiritual. It pays to give up the world that we may sit at Jesus' feet and there learn the things of the kingdom. It pays to take time to be holy. At the present the dollar may glitter, the worldly friend may call, the party, the cup and the crowd may tempt us but the end of yielding is emptiness and sorrow and shame. A volume of illustrations might be given. It is a great privilege to be leader of the meeting with this topic. Let there be eager testimony as to the blessedness of self-denial that we may have time for Christ and the church that thus we may be like him of whom we learn. The lesson Mary teaches us is one of the best of the whole Bible.

#### SCRIPTURE LIGHT

1. The good part chosen by faith, 1 John 5: 10.
2. The upward look, Col. 3: 1, 2.
3. The bad part, Rom. 8: 6.
4. All must choose, Mt. 6: 4; Mt. 12: 30.
5. All may choose, John 3: 16.
6. Children should be taught to choose, Eph. 6: 4.
7. Choosing companions, 2 Cor. 6: 14.

8. The loss of a bad choice, Mark 8: 36; Mt. 25: 41-46.
  9. Whom to follow, Heb. 6: 12; Phil. 2: 5.
  10. Examine yourselves, 2 Cor. 13: 5.
- Let some one briefly discuss:
- Lot's choice, Gen. 13: 1-18.
- Esau's choice, Gen. 25: 27-34.
- Joshua's choice, Josh. 24: 14-25.
- Solomon's choice, 1 Kings 3: 5-15.
- Matthew's choice, Luke 5: 17-32.
- The young ruler's choice, Mk. 10: 17-22.

#### QUESTIONS

1. What do we mean by "that good part?"
2. What are some things inconsistent with choosing "that good part?"
3. What are some things that help us to choose "that good part?"
4. What are some things we must expect in choosing "that good part?" 2 Tim. 3: 12.
5. How are we rewarded for choosing aright?
6. How is foolish choosing punished?
7. How may we sit at Jesus' feet and what may we learn there?
8. In what ways should we take more time to be holy?

C. F. YODER.

### THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE

CLARA W. MILLER

"The youth of the soul is everlasting and eternity is youth," says Richter, a famous German author. These are the tender years when life is first in bloom, when the heart like a bee finds perfumes everywhere, and questions not if those flowers shall pass away. It is so hopeful, so buoyant, and the young life exults and sings. June is never more than a month old, yet what wonders she annually performs in forest and garden and mead. The happiest day of a life is only a dozen hours long. There are no old roses. They breathe their sweet incense into the air, then drooping fade away forever.

This is the age of young men; old men find only a grave in it. God rarely chooses an old man for a great work. Samuel was only a child who could not distinguish the Lord's voice from that of Eli; Saul was "a choice young man;" David was a shepherd boy; Jeremiah was a little child; Daniel was a youth of twenty. Moses, the infant weeping in his little wicker basket, was as much the choice of God as Moses at forty. Jesus, the babe, the youth,—the man at thirty-three had fulfilled his earthly mission.

"Every arrival of a new soul in the world is a mystery and a shut casket of possibilities." As none but God knows the beauty and the fragrance enfolded in the embryo leaves of a tiny rose bud, so he alone understands the springs of wonder and wisdom buttoned up under a little tattered jacket. And Jesus was never so weary but that the sight of a little child awoke all his love. A child's capabilities and possibilities are infinite. It is possible for the sons and daughters of America to become what they will. They have before them the most promising opportunities that have ever been enjoyed in any age. Life with a thousand voices is calling to them and they must go forth to the inevitable future.

The possibilities of a soul can only be measured by the greatest souls our world knows, such as Handel and Raphael, Glad-

stone and Emerson, Longfellow and Tennyson. The inspiration for any great work must be caught in youth, in the adolescent years. All too soon with the years he waxes a man,

"Even as a great tree grows from two small leaves  
To spread its shade afar."

Then he learns that life is not a holiday but an education; not a playground but a schoolroom where many lessons are to be learned and hard problems to be solved.

Oh, you who have gone in and out of the house that wisdom builded; you who have marked her palaces and marveled at her seven-pillared symmetry and beauty; you of exuberant energy and bold ambitions; you who are young, rich in life forces, marvelous and all but incomprehensible in possibilities, what is the price you have set on your life? What shall be the directing spirit of your every effort? What is the motive of your achievements? What is the present and ultimate end in view every day of every year of your life?

"Not many lives, but only one have we,—  
One, only one;  
How sacred should that one life ever be—  
That narrow span."

How shall we walk before the child, keep his hands clean and his heart pure, and make him a vessel meet for the Master's use? O Lord, give us strength, give us wisdom for the task to train the youth for thee!

Beneath the cold drifts, unhurt by the wintry storms and the snowy blanket that covers them, the sweet flowers grow. When the spring days come if you remove the silvery robe they will raise their bright faces to greet you. So the heart may be kept tender and sensitive beneath life's chilling blasts and thru the years of strongest temptations. If God can keep the little flowers stainless, white as snow, can he not keep hearts in like purity in a world of sin?

Each life in a home is a picture which God and the parent are painting. Beware that you deface not his work. You can make that life a joyous song, a sweet hymn of peace, whose music shall gladden, comfort, and cheer; or you can mar it for all eternity. Parents and teachers prepare the preface of every young life under their charge, and not only the preface, but the appendix whether the volume be a stately poem or a farce.

The possibilities of a child can not always be measured by its seeming intellectual capacity. Many of the greatest men and women of the centuries had a stupid childhood. But kindness and patience, virtues so Christ-like, will conquer almost anything. Ruskin said, "God gives us always strength enough and sense enough for what he wants us to do." And thus it was with Thomas Aquinas who was called at school "the silent ox." But afterward he demonstrated his sanctified genius and was called "the angel of the schools." Washington in his early life was a very poor speller and always spelled "hat" with a double t, but he knew enough to spell out the independence of his country.